

السنة الثالثة

# The Guardian

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Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Greenland D 400	Norway Nk 16
Alaska L 250	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Pakistan R 70
Andorra P 100	Hungary F 200	Poland Z 2.20
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Duncan Campbell talks to Andre Hanscombe

## Life after Rachel

G2 with European weather



Peter Cook remembered

## My brother, the comic genius

Pages 12/13



Education

## Home-school contracts: bringing parents into line

G2 pages 10/11

'The reputation of the House as a whole has been called into question. I believe very strongly that these matters must be resolved as soon as possible' — Betty Boothroyd yesterday



# The biggest test

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

**B**ETTY Boothroyd, the Speaker, last night warned MPs that they must take urgent and firm action to investigate the "cash for questions" case involving disgraced former minister Neil Hamilton and lobbyist Ian Greer, warning that the scandal had called into question the reputation of Parliament.

announced his reform of the system last year. Tony Newton, the Cabinet minister who chairs the committee, Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, and senior Labour and Tory MPs were locked for hours in intense discussion in a small room protected by security guards.



Neil Hamilton: all allegations against him must be investigated thoroughly to restore public confidence in Commons



IT WAS EMBARRASSING, THE MP'S KEPT LAUGHING AT ME.

THE SURE THING IS THAT THEY'VE GOT THEMSELVES INTO A TIGHT SPIN.

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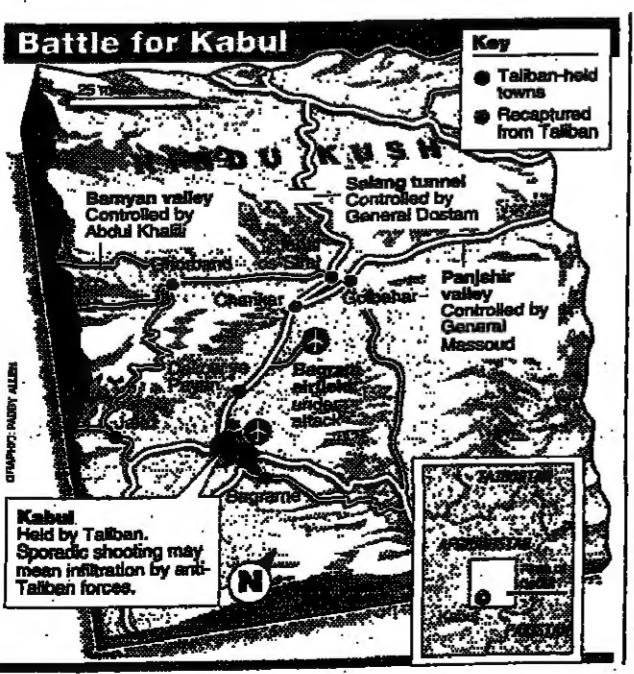
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## Afghan allies close in on retreating Taliban militia



Battle for Kabul

Morale rises among opposition armies as united leaders plot advance on capital

**P**ROLONGED shooting shattered the calm of the Afghan capital last night as the Taliban militia was pushed back to within three miles of Kabul, which it captured so easily last month.

white flag still flew in the desperately poor settlement, which has no electricity or running water. The Taliban left two days ago, during their retreat from the north.

<b>Britain</b>	<b>World News</b>	<b>Finance</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>G2</b>
				<b>Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16</b>

**Big in the soft and comfy departments.**

**Big in the lovely and delicious departments.**

**Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777**

Sketch

Ancient rituals shake the House



Simon Hoggart

THE first greaser to her feet in the new session was Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman. At the Tory conference a company was drumming up business with free hearing tests. You put on headphones and listened to signals at 500 MHz, 1000, 2000, and finally Elaine Kellett-Bowman level. The trick was, if you were not deaf before taking the test, you would be afterwards.

Virginia called on. "If you want to go to one of the Labour Party's nosh-ups in Park Lane, you have to pay £1,000," she declared, accurately if irrelevantly. "I am available at every tourism event," she added.

Dunblane report to recommend weapons be stored at clubs □ Police criticised over killer's certificate

Cullen limits handgun ban

THE long-awaited Cullen report into the Dunblane massacre is to recommend a ban on handguns being held in homes, but stops well short of the complete ban demanded by Dunblane parents, informed sources said last night. Instead, handguns are to be stored at gun clubs.

Hamilton in spite of warnings from the community about his behaviour. Lord Cullen conducted the five-week public inquiry into the massacre at Dunblane primary school in March in which Hamilton shot dead 16 children and their teacher before killing himself.

Home Secretary, Michael Howard, will meet this morning to decide the Government's response. Lord Cullen's report, Public Inquiry into Shooting At Dunblane Primary, which runs to 197 pages, makes 20 recommendations. The main one recommends "restricting" possession by individuals of handguns (self-loading and revolvers) of whatever calibre from homes.

with children. Hamilton had run several boys' clubs. The report, which runs to 11 chapters, much of it very legalistic, was collected from Lord Cullen's Edinburgh constituency yesterday by Scottish Office officials and distributed to other government departments.

Central Scotland police get off relatively lightly. Among the warnings about Hamilton's disturbing behaviour well before the massacre had been one from a police officer, but Hamilton was still able to get a certificate.

Although Lord Cullen is critical of the police, he restricts it mainly to saying things could have been handled differently. The Government is expected, at the very least, to accept Lord Cullen's recommendations.



Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

Judge says earnest plea by patient to help him die led to genuine act of mercy



Paul Brady leaves the High Court in Glasgow after being admonished for the culpable homicide of his brother, James, top left

Man who killed incurable brother freed

SUPPORTERS of voluntary euthanasia were jubilant yesterday after a court elected not to punish a man who had smothered his incurably ill brother.

Mr Brady, aged 37, from Huddersfield, was originally charged with murdering his 40-year-old brother James, who had been suffering the advanced stages of the body-wasting disease Huntington's Chorea. His release will encourage campaigners for a change in the legal status of mercy killings.

There is now a trend towards treating cases of voluntary euthanasia in a more lenient way, which is the law catching up with public opinion," a spokeswoman for the Voluntary Euthanasia Society said yesterday. "It now needs to go just one step further to enable this to be done legally and safely by doctors."

Ludovic Kennedy, the most high-profile advocate of voluntary euthanasia, said he was pleased at the judge's decision. However, from religious organisations in Scotland, "The danger of this kind of verdict is the message it might give to very vulnerable people wondering about their worth, their value and dignity as human beings," said Ann Allen, the vice-convenor of the Church of Scotland's board of social responsibility.

Yesterday's case had attracted particular attention because of the intensely personal nature of the tragedy, and the Brady family's willingness to co-operate with a television documentary on their plight.

At an earlier hearing, the court had heard that Paul and James's mother had died from Huntington's Chorea, which has a 50 per cent chance of being inherited by a victim's children. James, who was diagnosed in 1985, had been eventually grotesquely disabled by the condition, caused by a flawed gene attacking the central nervous system.

Paul Brady had admitted placing a pillow over his brother's head last Boxing Day after feeding him an excessive amount of tranquilisers and alcohol. The younger brother claimed that James, a long-term nursing home patient whose body was regularly contorted by muscle spasms, had begged him to kill him during a Christmas break at their sister Margaret's Glasgow flat.

Review

Seeds of doubt on freezing funk

Pat Kane

Jamiroqui Glasgow Barrowlands

IS funk defunct? In the current spectrum of global dance culture, where digital rules and the groove is definitely weird, there would seem to be less and less space for the legacy of Brown, Stone, Wonder and Otis. Sure, funkiness thrives through modern R'n'B and hip-hop like a distant pulse, the underlying human logic of all those zeros and ones. But the original jam — that heaving hump of sweaty collectivity, on a stage or in a studio, that is recognisably The Funk — is now rarely to be found.

So when London's Jamiroqui not only stay loyal to Mr Brown's metaphysics over three albums, but also manage a genuine top five hit out of it (the recent Virtual Insanity), a certain respect is due. And going by the mass ecstasy displayed at Glasgow's Barrowlands, the popular appetite for nine men playing on the One has not noticeably diminished. But even this soul-boy would have to admit that Jamiroqui — and all the other horn-blasting, bass-snapping acid-jazzers in their wake — provide a thoroughly conservative pleasure.

Ed Vulliamy

AN ACT of heresy against the religion of our time was committed yesterday. It was proclaimed in a public cyber-space that the giant of electronic information which vomits into people's working lives is not a deity, but a pestilence sweeping the planet, causing illness, stress and foolish decisions in business.

Ernie Clouston

THE bacillus is called Information Fatigue Syndrome (IFS), whereby megabytes of information — caught on the Internet, in fax-trays, voice-mail boxes, e-mail queues — erode and ultimately destroy the intelligence, personal lives and nervous systems of humans. Half the senior managers working in the industrial super-powers are already stricken with IFS.

Ed Vulliamy

The irony, and the heresy, lie in this discovery having been made — and released yesterday — by one of the world's most illustrious disseminators of electronic information: Reuters News Agency.

Ed Vulliamy

A report called Dying for Information? was commissioned from Britain's Benchmark Research company by Reuters Business Information, part of the global news conglomerate.

Ed Vulliamy

The foreword by David Lewis, a psychiatrist and member of the International Stress Management Association, says: "The worldwide burden of keeping up with the information explosion has led to soaring executive stress, loss of job satisfaction and physical ill-health. Unless we can discover ways of staying afloat amidst the surging torrents of information we are being drowned in them."

Ed Vulliamy

The infected executives are wound up, Dr Lewis says, into a "hyper-aroused psychological condition... the inevitable outcome of which are foolish decisions and flawed conclusions".

Ed Vulliamy

The symptoms of IFS include "paralysis of analytical capacity", "anxiety and self-doubt", and a tendency to blame others for the errors that ensue. The results are "time-wasting, delaying important business decisions, tension and in some cases illness".

OUR 50TH BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS ARE GOING OUT SOON.

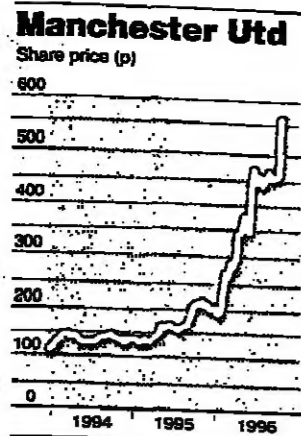
THE THIRD AT 50 CONTINUES THE CELEBRATIONS WITH THE SECOND INVITATION CONCERT, CHOSEN BY NICHOLAS KENYON. BACH, BRAHMS, MACHAUT AND OCKEGHEM LIVE FROM ST GILES' CRIPPLEGATE. THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER AT 7:30PM.



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July 2015

Speculation centres on sports impresario



City frenzy over takeover sees shares soar



Supporters of Manchester United, double-double winners at the vanguard of off-pitch football merchandising and promotion

United sell-off talk at fever pitch

Paul Murphy and Lisa Buckingham

FIVE months after becoming the first football team to win the FA Cup and the Premier League in the same year on two occasions, Manchester United were confirmed yesterday as the City of London's favourite for a multi-million pound takeover.

Speculation before the weekend that a big leisure company, such as television combine Granada or brewing giant Whitbread, was interested in paying £450 million or more for the club turned to a frenzy, sending shares in Manchester United up nearly 10 per cent to 55p.

Hopes that a corporate predator may be in the wings have driven up the club's stock by more than a quarter over the past week. The share price has almost tripled this year.

On Friday, Whitbread was forced by the Stock Exchange to issue a statement denying any interest in the club, while Granada has said it is not planning a takeover.

The level of speculation has also caused United's board of directors, led by Michael Edwards, to state publicly that it is not in talks to sell the club.

Stock market punters think differently. Last month it emerged that VCI, a video and publishing group headed by Channel Four chief executive, Michael Grade, offered to pay £300 million for United just after May's FA Cup final success against Liverpool.

Yesterday, speculation centred on the sports impresario Mark McCormack, whose sports promotions company IMG has made little secret of its desire to expand into football. The firm, which recently took a major stake in stock market-listed golfing company, PGA European Golf Tours, refused to comment.

Having dismissed football as a business "run from the heart rather than for the wallet", City analysts have fallen in love with the sport over the past year, excited by the prospect of potentially huge revenues from pay-as-you-view television and encouraged by moves among the big clubs to widen their revenue base from the turnstiles to sponsorship, strip sales, and corporate entertainment.

GRANADA

Granada: Chaired by Irishman Gerry Robinson, Granada is one of the City's most colourful corporate bruisers. The group triumphed with a £3.8 billion aggressive bid for the Forte hotels and roadside eateries empire not long after it staged the first hostile assault on an ITV company — LWT. In addition to Granada and LWT, the company has a powerful shareholding in Yorkshire Tynes Television, for which it is expected to bid.

The group — which rivals Carlton Communications as the most influential commercial terrestrial television organisation — has also joined forces with the broadcaster BSkyB, in which it owns shares, to produce satellite channels.

Run with brutally tight management controls, Granada also has interests in motorway service stations, commercial catering and the eponymous high street rental chain.

IMG

International Management Group: The corporate face of the sports management guru, Mark McCormack. IMG is the latest name to be linked with Manchester United as a potential bidder.

The company has sales of about £650 million a year and employs some 2,000 people in about 28 countries.

Mr McCormack's group is the largest independent producer of televised sports programmes through its Trans World International division as well as representing sports personalities such as the golfer Nick Faldo and tennis stars Andre Agassi and Martina Navratilova.

Since its formation with names such as Arnold Palmer and Gary Player in the early 1960s, IMG has expanded its business to take in the management of classical music events and it now owns two international modelling agencies.

UN

United News and Media: Formed from the merger of the Express newspaper group, United, and Lord Hollick's MAI group, United News is still going through changes which resulted from the £3 billion tie up. This includes a multi-million pound shake-up at the Express titles.

The company is regarded as looking for acquisitions — it has been named as a potential bidder for the Blenheim exhibitions group — and is routinely linked with media targets. As the owner of the ITV companies, Meridian and Anglia, United is already one of the major players in Channel 3 and is a stakeholder in the planned Channel 5.

Much of the earnings of United — unique for bringing a socialist and a Conservative peer, Lord's Hollick and Stevens, together in the same boardroom — come from America, where it has a strong trade publication and exhibitions operation. The company also operates a money broking business.

VCI

VCI: The video distribution company chaired by the Channel 4 boss, Michael Grade, made informal overtures to Manchester United last summer. These approaches were never put to shareholders. But City sources say VCI was ready to dig deep — it is valued on the stock market at less than the football club — and offer about £300 million for United — a figure which was regarded as too small by the Manchester board.

VCI, which last year acquired the André Deutsch publishing imprint, has already spent about £10 million to buy the rights to Manchester United books and videos. The company has produced videos featuring "famous reds" such as Eric Cantona and Ryan Giggs. More traditional offerings from the company include videos of the BBC's Top Gear series, as well as Mr Bean, Men Behaving Badly and Les Miserables — In Concert.

WHITBREAD

Whitbread: Britain's fourth biggest brewer with sales of nearly £2.8 billion a year and brands such as Boddington's and Stella Artois has been refocusing its business on the retailing side of wining and dining, with restaurant chains such as Brewers Fayre, Café Rouge, Beef-eater and the David Lloyd group of leisure clubs.

The company runs the Thresher off-licence chain and is also one of the largest owners of pubs in the country. It has been building up its estate of largely mid-price hotels, and runs 16 Marriott hotels in the UK.

Whitbread claims to be the second largest operator in Britain's eating out market — after McDonald's — with about 1,000 outlets around the country. Its other major fast food brands include Pizza Hut, which it runs as a joint venture with PepsiCo of the US.

Belgian fury as paedophile case judge is dropped

Stephen Bates in Brussels

BELGIUM'S justice system was under renewed public assault last night after a much-praised local magistrate investigating the paedophile scandal was removed from the case for accepting a plate of spaghetti paid for by campaigners against child abuse.

Jean-Marc Connerotte was ordered to stand down by the Cour de Cassation — the highest court in Belgium — amid widespread public demonstrations in his support, after lawyers acting for the leading suspects claimed his impartiality had been compromised.

This is the second prominent case from which Mr Connerotte has been removed. Three years ago he was taken off an investigation into the murder of the former deputy prime minister André Coles, on the instructions of the chief magistrate, just as he seemed about to crack the case. The apparent reason was rivalry between judicial districts.

In the palace of justice yesterday, Oscar Stranard, the president of the tribunal of five judges, said: "The decision was made given that the impartiality of magistrates is fundamental."

The ruling occurred despite intense pressure, including an appeal from the prime minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene, for the judges to be "creative" in applying the law with tolerance, and a petition signed by more than 300,000 Belgians.

Thousands attended week-end demonstrations, and the Belgian railway network has promised to subsidise the fares of those attending mass demonstrations next weekend.

The ruling revived criticism of the judiciary for failing to make progress in high-profile investigations.

There was widespread outrage that Mr Connerotte, who has become a national hero for his energetic conduct of the case, should be dropped at the behest of lawyers acting for the reviled Marc Dutroux and Michel Nihoul.

The parents of the four young girls allegedly abducted and murdered by Mr Dutroux and his associates demonstrated angrily with a crowd of up to 700 people outside the court.

There were chants of "Assassins, assassins," as lawyers entered the building, and banners saying: "For the sake of our children, judge wisely."

Paul Marchal, the father of a teenage girl kidnapped and killed by the gang, said: "It is the beginning of the end. Justice is dead in Belgium."

Gino Russo, the father of an eight-year-old girl who starved to death in a cell in Mr Dutroux's basement, said: "This decision splits on our daughters' graves."

Mr Connerotte attended a fund-raising dinner organised by a group campaigning against child abuse three weeks ago, even though he had, as investigating magistrates to prepare files outlining both sides of the case.

The horror of the investigation and the admissions of the accused have left no one prepared to offer Mr Dutroux the benefit of the doubt. He is routinely described in the Belgian media as a monster.

The court ruled that the investigation should remain based in Mr Connerotte's home district of Neufchâteau, with the rest of the team — including his close colleague, the prosecutor Michel Bourlet — remaining in place.

Allies approach Afghan capital

continued from page 1

Ten miles along it, the rustling carcasses of Soviet tanks rest in the river bed. None penetrated further. Unlike the tarmac highways which are littered with useless Soviet hardware, the old royal road from Doshi up to the wide valley of Bamyan was never reached by the Russians after that first fatal attempt. Now this part of the road is a no-go area for the Taliban as well.

In the wide Bamyan valley, 8,000ft above sea-level, the road enters the heartland of the Hazara people, an ancient Shi'ite community almost wiped out by Genghis Khan in the 13th century. Abdul Karim Khalili, their leader, was one of the trio of anti-Taliban leaders who met yesterday, along with Cdr Masoud and General Abdul Rashid Dostam, the Uzbek warlord.

Gen Dostam recognised the ousted government yesterday, but held back from joining a military alliance with its forces around Kabul.

The Russians ran occasional convoys to Bamyan on the second stage of the rocky road down to Kabul. But the Taliban were driven from here, too, at the weekend. Mr Khalili's forces now control Ghorband, a key town on the hills above the main road to the capital.

Known as Hizbe Wahadat, Mr Khalili's forces were part

of the mojahedin armies that took over Kabul in 1992 when the government of Mohammad Najibullah fell. They later broke with Cdr Masoud. Faced with the greater threat of the Taliban, they have now buried their enmity to become a Masoud ally.

Sitting cross-legged on a carpeted floor during lunch, Kurban Ali Erfani, Hizbe Wahadat's second-in-command, told us why. With him was one of the 56 Hazara ayatollahs. As Shi'ites, the Hazara fear the militant Sunni fundamentalism of the Taliban.

"We accept women working and girls going to school. We don't want to withdraw from the world," Mr Erfani said.

The Taliban's Pashtun nationalism is another source of alarm. "In talks with the Taliban we called for respect for equal rights, but had no positive response," he added.

The third, and perhaps greatest, factor is that the Hazara's leader, Abdul Ali Mazari, was captured by the Taliban last year and killed in custody. The Taliban claimed he had grabbed a Kalashnikov rifle while in a helicopter. But reporters had earlier seen him tied up in a room in a state of terror.

Hizbe Wahadat's alliance with Cdr Masoud and Gen Dostam deprives the Taliban of their last potential ally. Every fighting group is ranged against them.



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Jury told of corruption and fear at secure hospital
Patient cleared of taking hostages

A PSYCHIATRIC patient was cleared of violent hostage-taking yesterday after a court heard him described as a whistleblower who had exposed corruption, drugs, prostitution and racism inside a leading secure hospital.

The jury at Liverpool crown court took two hours to throw out charges that Byron Tomlinson, aged 35, a victim of paranoia and other disorders, had held a consultant psychologist and a patient at knifepoint in Ashworth hospital, Maghull, Merseyside.

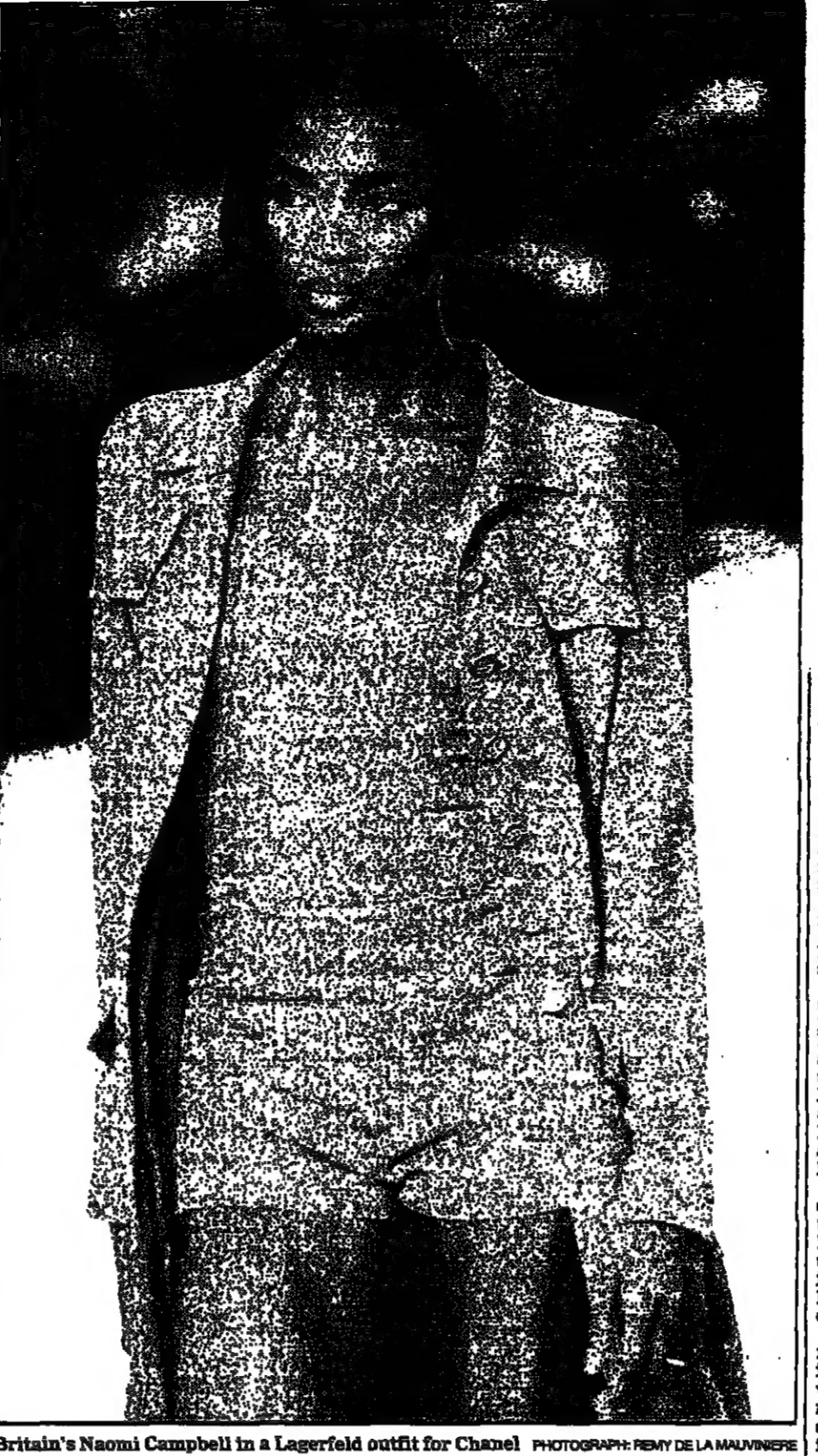
Merseyside police officers because they were an independent party. Mr Tomlinson admitted losing control before the incident — because he was denied his visitor but also because of five months' experience of Ashworth's Owen Ward.

How to save a life and ruin a marriage, by Mrs Merson

FOOTBALLER Paul Merson's recovery from addiction to drink, drugs and gambling saved his life but wrecked his marriage, he and his wife told yesterday.

The papers, that's not my husband, is it? "Everyone has forgotten about the person who lives with them, and it has taken its toll on me," she said.

now after everything I don't like this life and God knows Lorraine can't like it. It is so boring. "Lorraine needs a life. She wants to go out for meals but I can't risk going to a pub or a restaurant."



Britain's Naomi Campbell in a Lagerfeld outfit for Chanel



Britons become cocks of the Paris catwalk

BRITISH talent scored twice in the halls of Parisian fashion yesterday when flamboyant designer John Galliano landed the top job at France's oldest and most lucrative house, Christian Dior, and Alexander McQueen, who invented bummer trousers, was appointed to fill Galliano's shoes at Givenchy.

Yesterday a gale of humour blasted through the chilly world of high fashion when Karl Lagerfeld sent models Claudia Schiffer and Stella Tennant on a huge conveyor belt wearing black and blonde doll wigs. The famously blonde Schiffer had become the raven-haired siren and Tennant the blonde bimbo.

Quarantine laws are under pressure as senior vets back change in rabies rules

PRESSURE for a change in Britain's animal quarantine rules will intensify tomorrow when a group of eminent veterinary surgeons demands that the Government scrap the world's toughest rabies controls.

The most significant breaking of veterinary establishment ranks over the issue, Vets in Support of Change, launched by Lord Soulsby of Cambridge University, Richard Halliwell of Edinburgh University, and five other senior vets, will join calls for a system based on vaccination and identification.

Jonathan Miller with Sam yesterday. "Solitary confinement for six months and no exercise - it is cruel, costly and unavailing"



Jonathan Miller with Sam yesterday.

Appeal judges reject prosecution attempt to obtain a retrial of Colin Wallace

THE Court of Appeal yesterday dismissed a prosecution attempt to obtain a retrial of Colin Wallace, the former army information officer who exposed a covert black propaganda operation in Northern Ireland.

ago was quashed last week — would not be in the interests of justice. The ruling, Mr Wallace, aged 53, repeated his calls for a full inquiry into the conduct of his trial. He said evidence had been "manufactured and manipulated".

friend, Jonathan Lewis. He also said police documents about alleged criminal activities in the antique trade, since passed to his lawyers, were not revealed at the original trial.

Ann Curro QC, for the prosecution, argued that the question of whether Mr Wallace was in fact responsible for Mr Lewis's death remained unresolved. Lord Bingham, sitting with Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Connell, questioned whether a new trial would be practicable or desirable.

Britain rejects EC plans for cuts in fishing fleet

THE British Government last night rejected a plan by the European Commission to reduce the size of the British fishing fleet in an effort to combat the depletion of fish stocks.

John Palmer in Luxembourg. The British Government last night rejected a plan by the European Commission to reduce the size of the British fishing fleet in an effort to combat the depletion of fish stocks.

simple fact is that there are far too many fishermen pursuing far too few fish," she said. "We can either tackle the problem through the brutal law of the marketplace or plan to bring our fishing capacity more into line with what the fish stocks demand."

Bottomley endorses Cubist tenet of 'disturbing art'

LAST week it was light opera and the spirit of Gilbert and Sullivan. Yesterday Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, embraced the modern with a quotation from the Cubist painter Georges Braque: "All art is meant to disturb".

read gained attention with her concrete cast of a terraced house in east London. However, art experts were divided yesterday on the validity of Mrs Bottomley's remarks. The three winners of the Turner prize. "It's slightly naive to think that these artists are challenging or part of the avant-garde," critic Andrew Graham-Dixon told Radio 4.

Court slashes driving ban for anorexic star of Street soap. A CORONATION Street star has been given a drastically reduced driving ban for speeding, so she can continue to get treatment for anorexia.

Foreign Office working party imposes new safeguards to preserve 'special character, style, ethos and quality', Andrew Culf reports

# Birt's World Service change backed

**J**OHN Birt, the BBC's director general, last night won his battle to restructure the World Service, but faced 20 conditions imposed by the Foreign Office in an attempt to safeguard its quality.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said the conclusions of a joint working party with the BBC would ensure the maintenance of the service's "special character, style, ethos and quality".

But campaigners opposed to Mr Birt's plan said they were disappointed by the outcome, which would jeopardise the service's quality.

"They are not safeguards — they are things they are not taking away from the World Service. It is Alice in Wonderland stuff," said Steven Parker, of the Save the World Service campaign, said its distinctive ethos would be lost in the merger.

Four of the five independent

experts on the working party said the changes could bring substantial advantages. John Wilson, former BBC controller of editorial policy, was the lone dissenting voice.

The BBC produced no evidence of cost savings from the restructuring and the National Audit Office is to examine the new financial mechanisms in six months.

The working group is to be reconvened next autumn to ensure quality has been maintained and promised savings achieved.

During the controversy Mr Birt had been accused by MPs of behaving like a "kind of tsar" and displaying a "cavalier attitude" towards the service.

But with last night's broad endorsement from the Foreign Office, he was in conciliatory mood.

"The process has been healthy and constructive. It has strengthened the World

Service, helped safeguard the quality and ethos of a service we all value and deepened the relationship between the BBC and the Foreign Office," Sir Christopher said.

"We welcome the clear and explicit safeguards contained in the working group's report."

Sam Younger, managing director of the service, welcomed the outcome, even though he had considered resignation in July. He had been told of the restructuring the day before the public announcement.

"With all the arrangements now in place, I am confident we can move ahead and make sure we get the benefits from full participation in the restructured BBC."

Robin Cook, shadow foreign secretary, said the report was a welcome advance. "We will comprehensively review the impact of any changes during the first year of a Labour government."



John Birt: 'Healthy and constructive process' | Malcolm Rifkind: 'concern for quality' | John Tusa: 'It is Alice in Wonderland stuff' | Sir Christopher Bland: 'welcomed safeguards'

## Fudge claims denied over report that is 'music to the ears' of senior management at BBC

**T**HE conclusion of the working group and its panel of five independent experts was music to the ears of the BBC's senior management.

Its declaration that the restructuring "could bring substantial advantages for the World Service" was a vindication of John Birt's approach.

The list of 20 safeguards "imposed" by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, created few difficulties for Mr Birt and the BBC's chairman, Sir Christopher Bland. Many had been con-

ceded, most already exist.

The FO denied it represented a fudge, saying the safeguards "should provide genuine reassurances to those who have raised understandable concerns".

The main conclusions are:

- Dedicated World Service news unit within the domestic BBC News directorate.
- World Service commissioners to have extensive powers to specify programmes they want.
- A guarantee that all senior appointments be agreed with World Service management.
- Service to retain extensive powers over foreign correspondents.
- English-language staff and those in foreign language services to continue being located on the same site when Bush House lease expires in 2004.
- Delines to ensure separation of grant-in-aid World Service expenditure and licence-fee funded BBC.
- Continuing BBC and FO appraisal of proposed savings.

The working group and four of the five experts concluded the arrangements would "ensure the maintenance of the special character, style, ethos and quality of the World Service's programmes."

But John Wilson, former BBC controller of editorial policy, said these would only be ensured through the maintaining operational control of the news and current affairs team.

The group welcomed plans reinforcing the role of BBC governors in overseeing the work of the service and the establishment of an independent advisory panel.

The other working party experts were Baroness Hogg, former aide to John Major; David Glencross, former chief executive of the Independent Television Commission; and Stephen Claypole, managing director of APTV, Nicholas Colchester, of the Economist Intelligence Unit and the fifth panel member, died last month.

Leader comment, page 8



Floral protest left outside the World Service headquarters in Bush House, London, yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITO

## EC plans fleet

Yesterday a sale of a... become of the atwalk... EC plans fleet... Court slaps driving ban... Street soap...

## All-party deal is set to cut out Sinn Fein

**A**BREAKTHROUGH in Northern Ireland's troubled all-party talks was on the cards last night as the main nationalist and Unionist parties agreed new proposals, signalling a further stage in the political isolation of Sinn Fein.

Talks were continuing late into the night at Castle Buildings as the threat of a resumption of violence by loyalists in response to the IRA's renewed bombing campaign appeared to have given the negotiations a new impetus.

At the weekend the Pro-

## News in brief

### Mother 'confessed' to killing her son

**A**MOTHER appeared to confess to the murder of her six-year-old son in a letter she showed to another woman, a jury heard yesterday. Ruth Neave, aged 28, wrote: "I cannot believe I have done it." Northampton crown court was told. She later said the letter was a mistake and that her son Rikki had been killed by someone else.

Ms Neave, who denies killing Rikki in Peterborough in November 1994, also offered 25 to a friend to leave information on a police answering machine pinning the blame for death on someone else, the jury heard.

Neighbours said Ms Neave behaved in an odd fashion for a woman whose son had recently died in horrific circumstances. She appeared fascinated by the murder and told them details about how the body had been frozen and bathed, how Rikki's clothes had been folded and left nearby, and how his body had been moved in a child's buggy. The case continues.

### Riding row splits town

**A**ROW over women participating in an ancient riding ceremony which has split the town of Hawick, Borders, led yesterday to the resignation of the Provost, the local first citizen. Tom Hogg, who chairs the council in the historic Borders textile centre, stepped down after failing to reconcile two furious factions, which he said "are tearing my town apart".

An emergency meeting will select a new provost to grapple with the argument over women taking part in the annual Common Riding, which sees a hectic gallop round the traditional boundaries of the burgh. The appearance of four women at the summer pageant this year has led to the ostracising of councillors, splits in families and insults like "scum" and "tart" on Hawick's streets.

Mr Hogg, who has been identified with the traditionalist, man-only faction, said: "I have a deep belief in the traditions and customs from which Hawick has grown, and I cannot and will not betray these now. God knows that I've tried every minute of these last six months to resolve the issue that's tearing my town apart, but it remains unresolved." — Martin Wainwright

### Aids death doctor 'no risk'

**FAMILY** doctors in the Wigan area were yesterday sent information to reassure patients after it was discovered that a local hospital doctor had died of Aids.

The registrar in Manchester died on Friday after a short illness. After examining his work and taking advice locally and nationally, Wigan and Bolton health authority said there was "no conceivable risk" to patients or colleagues. However, local GPs have been given details about the case, and an information line has been set up. The number is 01942-822217. — Chris Millitt

### Parents fear TV sponsors

**PARENTS** fear sponsorship in children's television programmes may increase to an unacceptable level, according to research published today by the Independent Television Commission.

There were concerns that sponsors' power would grow, enabling them to dictate what programmes would be broadcast, and that products would appear in programmes.

Parents of youngsters aged between eight and 12 felt some sponsorship could lead to unreasonable financial demands from their children and suggested a ban on sponsorship by manufacturers of expensive toys and clothing.

The commission's sponsorship code prohibits product placement and references to advertisers or sponsors during programmes. — Andrew Culf

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Burqa-clad widows, whose husbands have died in the fighting, wait for food at a distribution centre of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kabul. PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN MOORE

# Iranians and Iraqis enter Kurdish fray

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

**K**URDISH factions were engaged in heavy fighting near Irbil in northern Iraq yesterday amid claims that Iraqi troops and Iranian Revolutionary Guards were fighting alongside the rival peshmergas.

The sources said Jalal Talabani's PUK guerrillas had now recaptured Degala and Koi Sanjaq after taking control of the strategic Dokan Dam area, the site of a big hydroelectric power project.

border to Iran, PUK peshmergas have swept back to the outskirts of Irbil, the site of their initial defeat on August 31 by the KDP backed by the forces of Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi forces are positioned just to the south of Irbil, but so far the government has not ordered them into battle, perhaps fearing another aggressive response from the United States.

Revolutionary Guards have taken part in the latest attacks with heavy weapons, Katyusha rockets and cannons, said Sami Abdurrahman, a senior KDP official.

Both sides appeared to have exaggerated the involvement of outside forces. After its help in the initial capture of Irbil, the Iraqi army seemed to confine itself to long-range shelling of PUK positions during the KDP advance on Sulaymaniyah.

# Suharto tightens his grip on rivals

John Aglionby in Jakarta reports on measures to curb the opposition as elections approach

**I**NDONESIA'S limited democracy is coming under further strain from new measures by President Suharto to ensure the ruling Golkar party keeps its majority in the general election next year.

ruling elite is afraid that if an opposition figure gained enough votes, he or she might run for the presidency in 1998.

The insatiable media tycoon (right) has sailed into a storm with his deal to enter stagnant waters previously kept strictly off limits to foreigners, John Watts in Tokyo reports



able television, and the most popular satellite service, run by the state-controlled NHK network, has fewer than 2 million subscribers.

"Japan's strict media ownership regulations had always made it a difficult market to enter, but the Posts and Telecommunication Industry appears to have unofficially welcomed Murdoch because they think he can practise internationalisation of the industry."

# murderer's black ship makes waves in Japanese media

TV Asahi employee, equating Mr Murdoch's arrival with the American warships which forced Japan to end centuries of isolation in the mid-19th century.

Sightings of Murdoch-owned black ships have also been made by a number of newspapers and media analysts, usually followed by cries of alarm at the perilous state of the so-called 1955 system, under which the big companies, protected from overseas competition by the language barrier and strict rules regarding foreign ownership, have been able to dominate Japanese television for more than 40 years.

TV Asahi employee, equating Mr Murdoch's arrival with the American warships which forced Japan to end centuries of isolation in the mid-19th century.

PerfectTV is not the only rival to Murdoch's J-SkyB will face. The American firm DirectTV plans to begin satellite broadcasts in Japan next year.

With a number of smaller cable operators also starting up, the market could soon be crowded with more than 500 channels.

Mr Murdoch's grandson of a Korean immigrant to Japan, established Softbank in 1981. The company now controls half of Japan's wholesale software market and has diversified in a rapid and aggressive expansion strategy.

# Nuclear spy 'did not harm Israel'

Derek Brown in Tel Aviv

**T**HE Nobel peace laureate Joseph Rotblat yesterday hailed Mordechai Vanunu, the Israeli nuclear technician jailed as a spy, as a whistle-blower who had helped rather than harmed his country.

of Israel's secret nuclear programme, who was prime minister when Vanunu was illegally abducted and jailed.

Times in 1986 that Israel had secretly developed a nuclear capacity and had built an arsenal of 200 weapons.

reacted and still should react, because there has been an affront of national dignity," he said.

Vanunu has served 10 years of his 18-year sentence in isolation, in a 6ft by 8ft cell. He is believed to be the world's longest-serving prisoner in solitary confinement.

Conference speakers, including his brother Meir, told of his mental deterioration. Susannah York, the actress and campaigner for Vanunu, read out a "reconstructed" message to the conference which Meir said had been snatched from his brother's hand by a prison guard.

# A cheap rent could cost you your life

In the second of three articles on Bombay, Suzanne Goldenberg tells how ruthless landlords get rid of their tenants

the consequences of her challenge to Sena. "I lost everything with Ramesh, what else was there to be afraid of?"

**T**WO small rooms and a dark hallway are not worth dying for. Ramesh Kini gave his life for them unwillingly; now his widow's efforts to punish his killers have caused a sensation that has gone beyond her sedate, tree-lined neighbourhood in north Bombay.

Gopinath Munde, the Bharatiya Janata Party's deputy chief minister in the Maharashtra state government, re-sents suggestions that the state police are subject to political interference. The Bombay police, he said, were "just as good as Scotland Yard".

For the Kins the terror began eight years ago, when they received their first eviction notice. It intensified in 1993 after Ramesh refused a cash offer; it was not enough for a new home.

Every evening armed thugs were waiting beneath Ramesh's balcony more effective: "I [Sena] this case no one has threatened to throw out any tenants".

The last three months of his life were a silent hell. Sheela could only guess at his suffering. "I hadn't gone through this ordeal, because Ramesh didn't tell me anything."

Ramesh Kini had lived at the Laskhmi Niwas flats longer than any of his neighbours, arriving as a two-year-old in 1948. The Hindu colony has prospered since, but not the Kins. The family of three got by on Ramesh's salary of about \$25 a month as a supervisor in a factory producing caps for eyeliner pencils; his neighbours were businessmen and professionals.

Two days after his death, Sheela Kini went against custom - Hindu widows isolate themselves during mourning - and held a press conference. She accused the nephew and presumed heir of Bal Thackeray, Shiv Sena's chief, of ordering Ramesh's death at the landlord's behest.

The neighbourhood is becoming a commercial hub, and all the Kini's neighbours have received eviction notices from the landlord, who wants to put up an office block and charge higher rents. Three tenants have left. The strong-arm tactics are in part a legacy of laws making it impossible to evict tenants or raise rents. Almost 80 per cent of Bombayites live in rented properties and most admit their official rents are ludicrously low, set according to a formula based on 1942 property values.

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12 p







Elizabeth Gille

The book of the living

IN 1994, the author and editor Elizabeth Gille, who has died aged 59, published an unusual novel about cancer...

manuscripts saying 'Here's my latest. I'm sure you'll be able to work on it for publication...'



The date of my death is set. That does not prevent me from laughing

of her mother Irène, and with her knowledge of her own fate pushed to the back seat of her mind...

peopled by the memory of her mother and friends and relatives who had perished in the Holocaust...



Elizabeth Gille... search for survival through solitude

Tom ap Rees

To find the force that drives the flower



Growing leeks defiantly in Cambridge... Tom ap Rees

TOM AP REES, who was killed, aged 65, in a cycling accident in Cambridge, was a plant biochemist who communicated his enthusiasm to thousands of students during 30 years of university teaching...

and modifying sugars and organic acids within plant cells, how starch is made in starch grains, and the action of respiration in plants...

Llandoverly College, of which he was proud to be a trustee. From three years in the Royal Signals - he rose to the rank of lieutenant - he adopted a mode of dress, a contempt for low moral fibre...

He was always asking 'have you any problems?' This was no idle question: he would drop whatever he was doing to put things right...

Letter

Lucy Munby writes: Frida Knight's work for peace was the thread that ran through her life (obituary, October 4). She actively supported CND when living at Reading and founded Cambridge Against the Missile Bases when she retired to Cambridge...

Ethel Cain

At the third stroke, it will be the speaking clock, very precisely

ETHEL (Jane) Cain, who has died aged 87, was unwilling away the spring of 1936 at her General Post Office switchboard at London's Victoria exchange when she made a telephone call which changed her life...

into 27-year-old Ethel. No longer an obscure telephone operator from Croydon, Cain became the girl with the golden voice, national star and a hat tip for Pinewood cinema roles...

parts. Within weeks of winning the voice job (and its 10-guinea prize), she had swapped her 50 shillings-a-week job at the telephone exchange for the boards of London's New Theatre; and when she had to re-record T.M. on more modern equipment in 1938, she negotiated a healthy fee...

The sound of time... Ethel Cain recording in the 1930s



The sound of time... Ethel Cain recording in the 1930s

Jackdaw



COMPUTER Virus: Your computer has become infected with an unknown virus, and it has wiped your assignment clean! Possibility: The probability of encountering a computer virus is extremely high, especially when using college PCs...

Comments: Your tutor will not be impressed, but at least you're being honest. Success Rating: 0-30 per cent. The more flustered you are, the better chance of succeeding, not a good excuse. Loved! You tried to finish your drawing about your tutor. Yes - you love them! Possibility: Your lecturers probably fancy themselves as a bit of a horrid, charismatic, intelligent, witty, who wouldn't find them attractive? Comments: Seducing your flabby middle-aged lecturer to gain extra marks and essay extensions? Are you mad? Success Rating: 0-100 per cent. This is a make or break plan that could result in you having to perform a few extraordinary activities with someone older than your parents. Mitigating circumstances: Something dreadful has happened. You can't say what it is very personal - but it is dreadful. Possibility: These things do happen (whatever they are). Comments: Lay it on thick! wall and moan. Hint at vague

personal details and look depressed. Success Rating: 50-100 per cent. Another one that's all down to performance, a one-off that could give you a month-long extension right across the board. Utter rubbish! Simply empty the contents of a dustbin bag into your tutor's desk. Possibility: Only works on an art course. Comments: Mumble something about being an arch critic of consumerism. Refer to Jim Dine's Dustbin by Arman (1961). Point out the skillful juxtaposition of banal objects, the parody, the blurring of boundaries, the painful realism of it all. Burst into tears. Success rating: 50-100 per cent. If you've done your reading, and can form a good argument, you could drag this one out to an MA. Quick - phone the ikon. For those at university being given their first essay deadlines, a few hints on how to avoid them from a student guide discovered by F David in the tourist office in Birmingham

In touch DEAR - Thank you for calling my office to voice your support for a petition to recall me from Congress. You may be interested to know that the state of Indiana does not have any recall petition mechanism in place. You might wish to contact your representatives in the Indiana General Assembly to indicate your support for establishing such a measure. Please feel free to contact me at any time on matters of concern to you. Yours, Steve Buyer. From a letter sent out by Representative Steve Buyer (Republican, Ind). Some of his constituents had organised a drive to recall him from Congress, accusing him of not doing enough to bring an end to a government shutdown - was winner. Reprinted in Harper's

Dear Mary Q. RECENTLY at a golf club in France I left, by mistake, my small camera on a shelf in a large room full of caddies and players. After lunch and 18 holes, I remembered my camera and asked the caddy master, whom I knew well, if he had seen it. He had picked it up from where I had left it and was glad to find the owner. I returned to England that night, and the following day (the camera having not left my possession) I finished the reel with three notes in my garden, then took it on to our village shop for processing. The next morning I collected the loosely-closed package containing the prints and negatives, and without opening it, set off for a long drive home. At lunch-time I looked at the photos and, to my astonishment, saw that between the 24 photos I had taken in France and the three in England, there were nine of an erect man's penis - evidently taken by the man himself. Dear Mary, how do I find out if the pretty shop assistant had looked at or been warned about the "indecent exposure"? I now think, possibly imagine, that she gave me - an elderly man - a good look, and if she did, how do I prevent or quash the spread of gossip? A. Enter the chemist's shop wearing a sombre expression on your face and confide to a male manager: "I'm afraid some very offensive, though not illegal, photographs were taken with my camera, as a practical joke. They were developed here, so if you would like to give me the names of any members of your staff that have been offended, I shall ask the manager of the

golf club where the outrage was perpetrated to write to them to apologise."

Love lives Busy Couples Make Time for Love: A third of the women surveyed have not spent a weekend alone in the last six months. Most couples try to go out together once a week, but one in three estimates the frequency is nearer once a month. To make up for lost time, 57 per cent of couples spend much of their leisure time having sex. It is estimated that couples make love twice a week on average, and over half the women polled have sex when they feel too tired, to keep their partners happy. British couples are sexually adventurous: nearly two thirds of those polled have tried or would like to try using sex aids; over half watch adult videos to spice up their sex lives and a third have tried or would like to try bondage. However, partner swapping and group sex are out of the

Death Notices

OWENS, Rev'd Aubrey, on 11th October 1996 peacefully at St James' Rectory, Farnborough, Hants. He was aged 82. He was a devoted husband of Lillian, loving father and grandfather. Buried at Farnborough on 14th October 1996. All enquiries to: Rev'd Aubrey Owens, Farnborough and Wokingham, telephone 01256 341000.

In Memoriam

DAWE, Ethel R. (née Dickinson). Died October 13 1996 at Footscray. May God entrust you to any who have shared significant moments. Newsday

Emily Sheffield

question for 91 and 83 per cent respectively. Dizzy Mare, Prat, Skummy and Old Trout are just some of the insulting nicknames partners adopt for each other. Animal-inspired names include Piggon, Badger, Bearskin and Rabbit while more unusual names include Bursley's Mother, Snod and Trotter. Welsh couples claim to make love the most, on average three times a week compared to the national average of twice a week. East Anglian couples make love the least, and 61 per cent of women from this area admit they have sex when they feel they are too tired, just to keep their partners happy. Couples from Wales have the most tempestuous relationships. How we live and love from a survey conducted by She magazine

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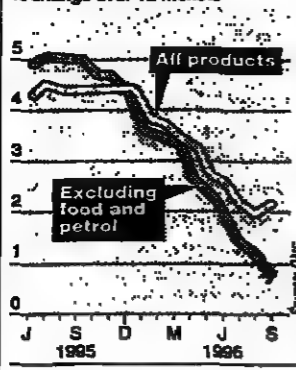
High street squeeze on manufacturing and boost to sterling ease rates pressure

# Price rises at 30-year low

Richard Thomas  
Economics Correspondent

**S**TIFF high-street resistance to tighter price tags has pushed factory-gate inflation down to its lowest level for almost 30 years, according to figures published yesterday.

Factory gate prices  
% change over 12 months



Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, with the necessary ammunition to fend off Bank of England calls for an interest-rate rise when Governor Eddie George and Mr Clarke next meet on October 30.

Kevin Darlington, economist at brokers ABN Amro Hoare Govett, said: "The sustained weakness of cost pressures and the continued strength of sterling will allow the Chancellor to counter the Bank's more hawkish tone."

Asked about the value of the pound at the end of a meeting of European finance ministers in Luxembourg, Mr Clarke said: "Sterling's strength doesn't concern me. We allow the markets to judge the value of sterling, which is why we aren't in the ERM. Sterling is strong and stable."

The high street squeeze has coincided with the onset of autumn, according to a survey released yesterday. Echoing recent surveys hitting a slowdown in the pace of retail sales growth, the British Retail Consortium said factory-gate prices rose 0.2 per cent over the year to September, against 0.9 per cent the preceding month.

Andrew Hoggston, chairman of the BRC, said: "The growth of sales volume has been stabilising, rather than accelerating further." The Chancellor should have interest rates on hold because competitive pressures were keeping down shop prices.

Simon Briscoe, chief economist at Nikko Europe, said fresh signs of subdued inflation at the producer end augured well for prices on the high street, and went some way to counter the small rise in retail price inflation registered last week.

Mr Briscoe said the only potential threat to the inflation outlook would come from retailers attempting to use cheaper wholesale goods to restore margins. But most analysts said that competitive pressures on the high street would force shops to keep a lid on prices.

## British investors 'missing out in Hong Kong'

Don't bet on a fall after Chinese takeover, Donald Tsang tells  
Richard Thomas

**B**RITISH firms are missing golden investment opportunities in Hong Kong because of exaggerated fears of instability after the handover of power to China, the territory's financial secretary, Donald Tsang, warned yesterday.

In an interview with The Guardian, Mr Tsang berated European pundits for misjudging the underlying strength of the Hong Kong economy and Beijing's political agenda. "In England, the feeling seems to be that because a number of British nationals have come back, the place must collapse," he said. "The tragedy is that Britain is missing out. Japanese and American money is pouring in."

Leaders both in the territory and on the mainland were committed to. On the Bank of the Hong Kong to US dollar (at an exchange rate of 7.75), the financial secretary warned that he had the resources to take on any dealers who bet on a fall.

The first ethnic Chinese financial secretary, Mr Tsang was critical yesterday of his future masters — "China was too boring for the IMF to want to borrow money from, so they came to Hong Kong instead" — but added sensitively: "We do need each other."

A free market would ensure political and individual freedoms, he said. When some of the Hong Kong press began to avoid criticising China, fearing for advertising revenues, entrepreneur Jimmy Lai had launched a populist critical paper. Within months it was the second-best seller in the territory. According to Mr Tsang, there are three compelling reasons why the Communist Party of China does not, in any case, want to smother Hong Kong under an ideological blanket.

## Tax inspector accused of taking bribes

Dave Atkinson

**F**ORMER Inland Revenue special investigator Michael Alcock yesterday pleaded not guilty to the most serious bribery charges levelled against a Crown officer in recent memory.

He is accused of corruption involving first-class air tickets, the services of a prostitute and a cruise to Bermuda. Mr Alcock denied a total of 13 charges at the Old Bailey. With him in the dock were businessmen Hisham Alwan and David Shamoon, who denied bribing Mr Alcock.

and back the payment of a \$2,417 Plaza hotel bill and three Concordia tickets from New York to London.

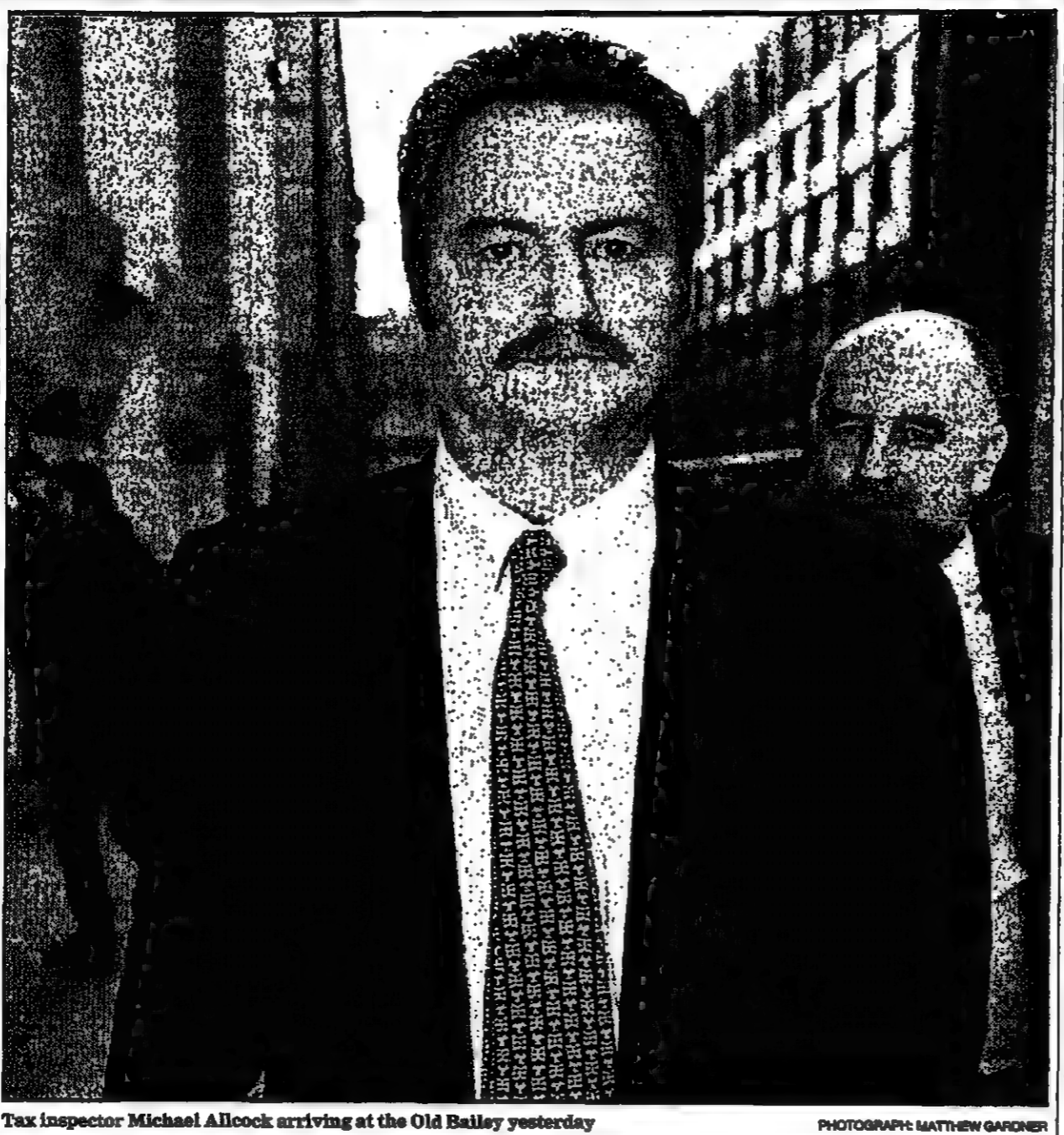
Earlier the same summer, he is accused of accepting an expense-paid holiday in Mallorca from a Marwan Kalo. The previous summer it is alleged he was given a holiday in Marbella, Spain, from Mr Shamoon.

For three years, in 1988, 1989 and 1991, he also had hotel bills in France paid for, according to the allegations. The first charge states: "Michael Clayton Alcock, being an agent of the Inland Revenue, on a day unknown before January 1 1991, did corruptly accept from Hisham Othman Alwan a gift or consideration, namely the services of a prostitute, as an inducement or reward for showing favour to Hisham Othman Alwan in relation to his principal's affairs or business."

Two Knightsbridge hotel bills were allegedly paid for Mr Alcock by Mr Alwan in 1991 and 1992.

Mr Alcock is alleged also to have accepted a total of \$14,400 in cash as bribes between 1987 and 1992. He, Mr Alwan, aged 66, of Hans Place, Knightsbridge, and Mr Shamoon, aged 68, of Holland Park Road, West Kensington, have denied the various charges against them.

Anthony Arledge QC appears for Mr Alcock, Stephen Zolley QC for Mr Alwan and Edmund Lawson QC for Mr Shamoon. John Black appears for the Crown.



Tax inspector Michael Alcock arriving at the Old Bailey yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW GARDNER

### News in brief

#### Accountants desert beleaguered Wickes

THE accountancy firm Arthur Andersen is to resign as auditors for Wickes, the troubled DIY company which has announced that it overstated profits by \$50 million, it emerged last night.

Sources within the accounting industry said that the decision had been made but it remained unclear when the accountants would step down.

The news comes as Wickes prepares to unveil tomorrow a long-awaited letter to shareholders in which it will explain how the accounting irregularities came about.

Publication of the letter, which has been held up by legal complexities, follows an investigation by City solicitors Linklaters & Paine which has uncovered irregularities, inflating the group's earnings over the last four years.

The letter is likely to state that former top executives have agreed to repay bonuses. Former finance director Trevor Llewellyn has offered to reimburse the company although negotiations are still taking place with lawyers representing former chairman, Henry Sweetbaum. — Patrick Donovan

#### Philips' profits warning

PHILIPS, the troubled Dutch electronics group, yesterday warned that its second-half profits would not show the forecast improvement and that it could be forced to speed up its restructuring plans.

The warning came just over a week before next week's third quarter figures and is the second time in recent history that Philips has had to issue late warnings to investors that profits have failed to live up to promises.

Philips shares slumped heavily on the news and dragged the rest of the Dutch stock market down in the early part of yesterday as the company made it clear that it was most unlikely that operating income would show an improvement in the second half compared with 1995. — Simon Beavis

#### Farnell shares fall 20.5p

SHARES in the electronic components distribution group Premier Farnell fell 20.5p to 660p after it announced disappointing first-half figures and forecast weak market conditions for the rest of the year.

The group is the product of Farnell Electronics' £1.85 billion takeover in April this year of Premier Industrial Corporation, its US counterpart. The business reported that first half net earnings per share, excluding rationalisation and other exceptional costs, fell from 17p to 16p. — Nicholas Bannister

#### Eurotunnel seeks extension

EUROTUNNEL confirmed yesterday that it was asking the British and French governments for an extension to its operating concession, which runs out in 2003, as it tries to persuade investors to support its \$9 billion debt restructuring plan.

The company also unveiled a management shake-up, splitting the company into two operating divisions with Bill Dix moving from chief commercial officer to managing director of Le Shuttle.

#### Regulator steps off gas

GAS industry regulator Clare Spottiswoode said yesterday she would not be widening the Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into British Gas for the time being. She said the latest inquiry would initially investigate only Ofgas's price control proposals for Transco, the group's pipeline and transportation business.

Analysis had been concerned that a broader investigation could complicate plans to demerge the domestic and international businesses early next year. British Gas triggered the MMC inquiry when it rejected Ofgas's proposals to cut an estimated \$28 billion from the average annual bill for 18 million domestic consumers. — Celia Weston

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**Continental Airlines**

## IoD switches debate from fat cats to hefty profits

OUTLOOK/Lucre replaces virtue as rationale for corporate governance reforms, writes LISA BUCKINGHAM

**T**HE evidence is still far from conclusive but what is clear is that the debate has shifted. Corporate governance may still be regarded as "a good thing" *per se* but this is no longer enough.

It must be shown to pay its way, to create additional wealth rather than simply helping to protect what is already there.

effectiveness of boards and published accounting information — the assertion that good governance will, over time, result in outperformance has to be taken largely on trust.

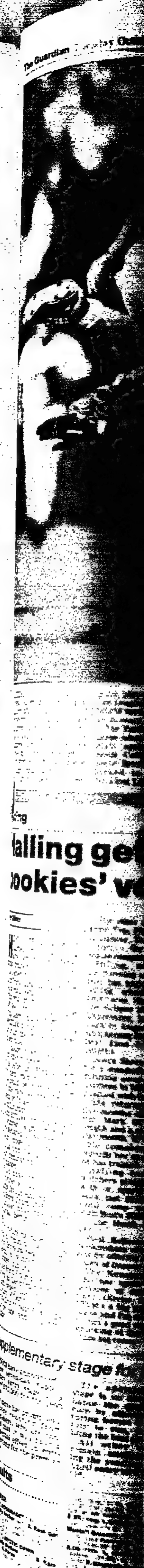
But the proposition is gaining some eminent champions, not least Neville Bain, chief executive of Coats Vyeilla, whose new book "will form a central plank of the debate at today's IoD corporate governance conference."

insight into companies' five-year plans.

The proposition would almost certainly need a rewrite of the Companies' Act, to create a legal difference between the duties of executives and non-executives, and share holders with such large stakes would probably have to become "insiders" unable to deal on any price-sensitive information their newly augmented position might reveal.

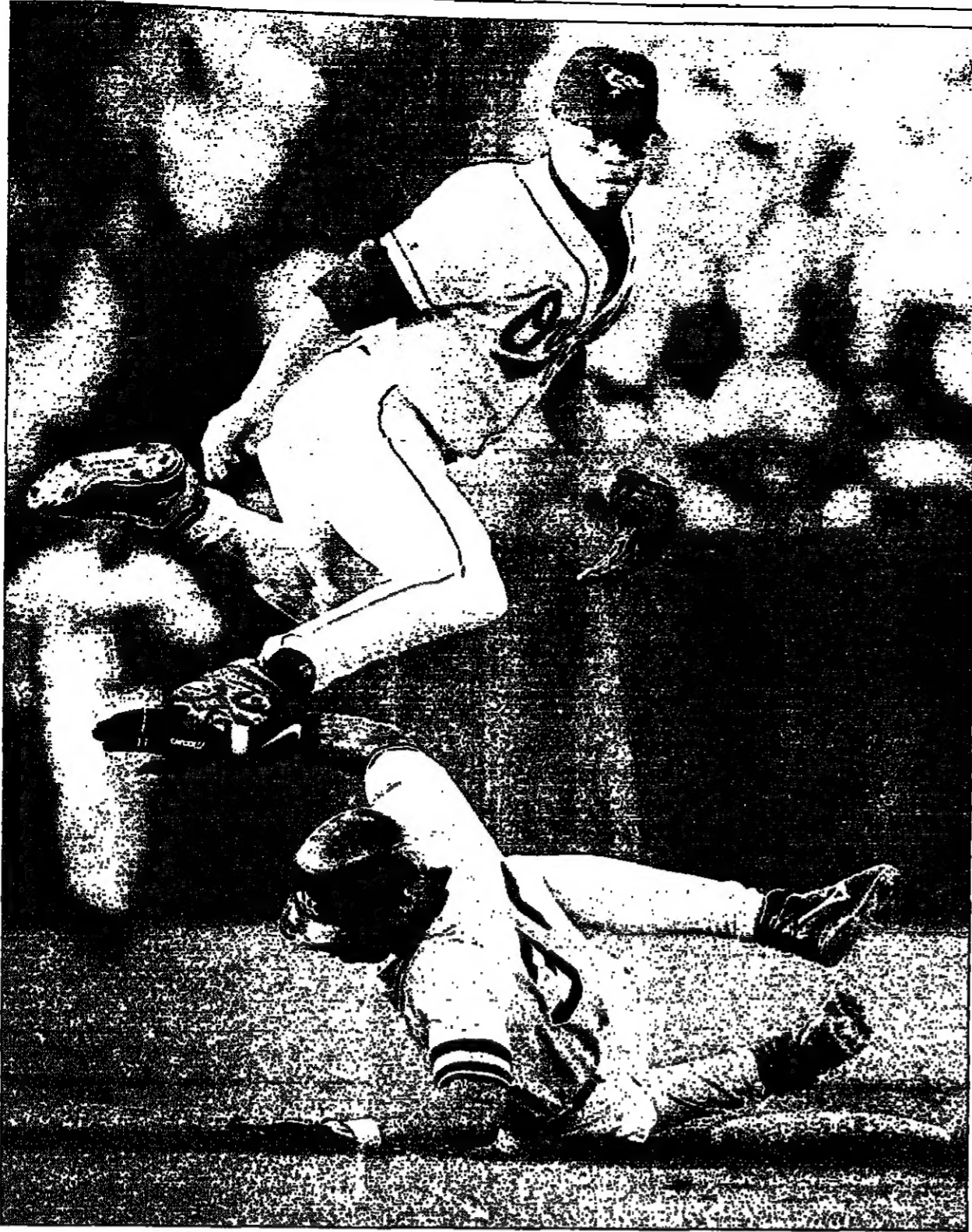
There are already institutions — MAM is an example — which take large stakes in companies, but recently this fund manager has been criticised for its powerful role in takeovers. It could also be argued that, if 50 institutions attempt to build sizeable stakes in a limited pool of companies, share prices could become distorted in the rush to get hold of the best of the bunch.

For the time being — until the publication of studies, such as that now under way at Lancaster University Management School, which look at the correlation between the



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leadersy both in the... were committed to... On the link of the... change...



YANKERS fine and dandy... Roberto Alomar leaps tactually after tagging Darryl Strawberry at second base...

The Cardinals lead 3-1 and could clinch victory in St. Louis tonight, but so far as New Yorkers are concerned the World Series winners are a foregone conclusion.

blared in celebration. "They said we couldn't win two in a row in Texas," said another Yankee fan. "They said we couldn't win three in a row in Baltimore. I think that's still good enough to have added to his nine All-England, seven world and scores of other titles around the globe — and unquestionably compas mentis."

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Golf

Monty dubious about return with Woosnam

THE strongest World Match Play Championship for many years — it comes close to justifying its title — is certain to have a European in the quarter-finals. There are only two in the field, Colin Montgomerie and Ian Woosnam, and the draw has brought them together in the first round to be played at Wentworth on Thursday.

to defend their title. The team captain and inspiration lost all his three matches — one after taking 78 to the 78 of India's Gautam Gheh. Montgomerie, clearly suspicious of a draw that so fortu-

Badminton

Park plants new English hope

Richard Jago on how a South Korean legend was lured across the world to reinforce the Steve Baddeley regime

appointment in as many months by the association; in July the Danish coach Asger Madsen became the first foreigner employed full-time, shortly after Baddeley, England's most successful men's singles player since the war, took up his post after six years in Scotland and Sweden.

Racing

Halling gets bookies' vote

The other five runners are Even Top, First Island, Glory of Dancer, Tamayaz and Wall Street — the last two being stable companions of Halling. Halling, whether making the running or held for a late run, has improved with each outing, winning five Group One races. His second win in the Eclipse at Sandown was impressive; his follow-up at York in August was brilliant. Quickening from the front, he beat First Island by three lengths.

Leicester with form for the Jackpot races

Table listing Leicester race results and form for the Jackpot races, including race numbers, horse names, and jockey details.

Sedgely H.H.

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Leicester with form for the Jackpot races

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Supplementary stage for Derby

EPSON has announced a new seven-day supplementary entry stage at a cost of £75,000 for the 1998 Derby. The move has prompted a cautious reaction from bookmakers, who are concerned that it will have a detrimental effect on ante-post betting for the premier Classic.

Results

Table listing race results for Leicester, Sedgely H.H., and other venues, including horse names and race details.

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RACELINE COMMENTARY 0930 168+ LEICESTER 101 201 SEDGELY 102 202



Setting the pace... Newcastle's manager Kevin Keegan leads his players in training at the Ulliel stadium in preparation for tonight's Uefa Cup tie

PHOTOGRAPH: LASZLO BALOGH

# Magpies in no mood for unhappy return

Michael Walker in Budapest finds Les Ferdinand eager to silence Ferencvaros' racially abusive militant tendency with goals

NEWCASTLE'S players need no greater motivation to do well in Budapest today than the memory of their miserable flight home from Sweden in the previous round of the Uefa Cup. The atmosphere on the plane after the 2-1 second-leg defeat by the part-timers of Halmstad, and a performance which had the greying Kevin Keegan red with rage, was sullen, subdued and unpleasant.

from the first leg had already ensured Newcastle progress to the second round, where they meet Ferencvaros, the mood was, according to one player, almost as bad as after the crushing defeat by Manchester United in the Charity Shield.

Newcastle's possible defensive strategy tonight. However, the chances of Ferencvaros's Ulliel at stadium being equally benign seem small. Their fans have a reputation akin to Millwall's F troop of the Seventies. The club were recently fined \$53,000 after an outbreak of violence during the first round with Olympiakos of Greece, and last season Ajax banned Ferencvaros's fans from their ground because of their racial abuse their black

players had endured in the Hungarian capital. Ferencvaros were the only club in Budapest not linked to the communist party - Honved were the army side, Ujpest Dossza the police team - and skinhead racists feature prominently at the Ulliel.

The imperturbable Peter Beardsley said: "How will we know what they are shouting anyway? We handled Roker Park this season when we didn't have a single supporter in the stadium; if we can handle that we can handle anything."

Having not done that in his last two games, Ferdinand will be keen enough already; and although Keegan stressed the need for a sensible European approach, he still wants goals.

# Rangers hit by two more injuries

Patrick Glenn

RANGERS' prospects of retrieving their desperate Champions League situation in Amsterdam tomorrow were reduced almost to zero yesterday.

Filippo Ricci offers some advice to Old Trafford's travelling army in Turkey tomorrow night. Having visited Istanbul's main clubs he feels that, unlike Galatasaray, Fenerbahce offer their visitors more sound than fury

The deafening sound system makes you think you have stumbled into a rave party, especially when Fenerbahce's latest anthem, a sort of Turkish house-Macarena number written to celebrate last season's championship triumph, pumps out and everyone gets up to dance.

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more. He will doubtless do the same tomorrow night. If Alex Ferguson is looking to take the edge off the atmosphere against a strike in the players' union ballot, take a tip from the Juventus coach Marcello Lippi, who went to great lengths to praise Fenerbahce before the match.

# Another walk on the wild side for United

Patrick Glenn

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# Neal can watch City before court hearing

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MANCHESTER City's assistant manager, Neil Neal, will be able to watch his new team at Reading tonight but a High Court hearing has been arranged for Friday because Cardiff are demanding compensation for the loss of their player.

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# Results

AVON COUNTY CUP: Wootton Bassett 1, Stroud 0. Wootton Bassett 1, Stroud 0. Wootton Bassett 1, Stroud 0.

# Soccer

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# Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: St Louis 4 Atlanta 5 (St Louis win series 4-1).

# Cricket

TRIO MATCH (Sahni): Zimbabwe 307-7 dec 10; England 105, 4. Flower 100, 100.

# Fixtures

AVON COUNTY CUP: Wootton Bassett 1, Stroud 0. Wootton Bassett 1, Stroud 0. Wootton Bassett 1, Stroud 0.

# Soccer

# FA quick to charge Bosnich

Russell Thomas THE FA has wasted no time in charging Aston Villa's goalkeeper Mark Bosnich with misconduct after his Nazi salute to Tottenham supporters at White Hart Lane on Saturday.

Premier League referees for referees to observe a 30-minute cooling-off period before approaching match officials at the end of matches.

Wright was reported to have called Piatek a "pervert" in the aftermath of the Arsenal v Sheffield Wednesday game at Highbury last month. It was his response to Piatek's claim that the player had escaped unpunished after two incidents in that game, which Arsenal won 4-2.

Kane had claimed Craig kicked Evans during a fracas in the players' tunnel after both were sent off. Craig admitted lifting his hands but denied kicking. After the tape had been viewed six times, including in slow motion, Kane was asked if he would reconsider his evidence.

# 'Sacking threat' over strike poll

CLUBS have been trying to intimidate players to vote against a strike in the players' union ballot, claims the Professional Footballers' Association chief executive Gordon Taylor ahead of this weekend's result.

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# Neal can watch City before court hearing

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# Pools Forecast

Table with columns for FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP, NATIONWIDE LEAGUE, and SCOTTISH LEAGUE, listing teams and predicted scores.

Vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, including 'Scots to prop for four years', 'Two official Pienaar', and 'Squads'.



Yankees break 15-year duck, page 13  
Hill's next challenge, page 15

Newcastle lift the gloom, page 14  
Four-year ban for rugby player, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## THE NORTH-EASTERN DERBY



Playing to feet... Fabrizio Ravanelli on the ball on the night he became the leading scorer in English football this season with 11 goals

Premiership: Sunderland 2, Middlesbrough 2

## Ord off but Russell earns point

**George Caulkin**  
THE Wear and Tees derby might have been restyled the Wear and Tear tit-for-tat as Sunderland twice pegged back Boro in muscular fashion despite having their key defender Richard Ord sent off for violent conduct after 58 minutes. Boro's goals were taken in emphatic style by two mem-

bers of their international brigade, Emerson and Ravanelli, while Peter Reid's more homespun flag was kept aloft by equalisers from Alex Rae, from the spot, and Craig Russell.

Ord, whose task was to contain the prolific Italian, was having his first game back from suspension since being sent off in last month's 1-0 defeat by Derby. Reid's game-plan was apparent from the start, packing

his midfield with five players to harry and restrict Middlesbrough's talented international brigade and fielding Paul Stewart as a lonely figure up-front. It was an exercise in pragmatism that was ironically exposed by one of the Brazilian trio, Emerson, after only nine minutes when his crunching challenge forced the unfortunate Steve Agnew to be replaced by the more attack-minded Craig Russell.

Not that Sunderland could have been accused of negativity. With the famous old ground in fine voice and close to capacity, simple expectations had already propelled the home side forward in a fast and furious opening few minutes, with Michael Gray misdirecting a hopeful long-range shot high into the Roker Park end.

But the home side were clearly affected by the lengthy stoppage for Agnew to be carried from the field and the resulting change of personality. With the famous old ground in fine voice and close to capacity, simple expectations had already propelled the home side forward in a fast and furious opening few minutes, with Michael Gray misdirecting a hopeful long-range shot high into the Roker Park end.

## Playing the fool no joke for Bosnich



Richard Williams

THE rules of life are simple and threefold: never eat at a place called Ma's, never play poker with a man called Doc, and never assume that anyone else shares your sense of humour. Or even that you have one worth sharing, unless you are being paid a great deal for that specific purpose.

There must have been a terrible moment for Mark Bosnich at White Hart Lane on Saturday when he realised what he had done and how badly his attempted joke had misfired.

In trying to respond to the taunting of the Tottenham fans by mimicking Adolf Hitler, the Aston Villa goalkeeper used John Cleese's Basil Fawlty as his model. He stuck one arm up in the Nazi salute, putting the gloved fingers of the other hand across his upper lip in mimicry of the Hitler moustache.

The deeper implications of his little jest were swiftly made clear to him. And ever since then he has been giving an impersonation of another celebrated Fawlty moment: when the hapless hotelier, having inadvertently placed his soot-covered hands upon the freshly laundered T-shirt covering the breasts of a young Australian guest an instant before his formidable wife appears, clasps his hands to his head and hops around in an agony of embarrassment.

Bosnich's action swiftly brought down the wrath of the referee, who booked him; of Jewish and anti-racist organisations; of the police, who are investigating the affair with a view to sending a report to the Crown Prosecution Service; and of the Football Association, which announced yesterday that he would be charged with misconduct.

A couple of hours after his offence Bosnich called Six-O-Six, Radio 5 Live's phone-in show, to apologise for his stupidity. But the Sunday and Monday papers were full of it, their coverage identifying the origin of the incident in his crude foul on Jürgen Klinsmann during a Spurs-Villa match two seasons ago, which has made him a particular target for a abuse. The traditionally

high proportion of people with Jewish antecedents among Tottenham's supporters was clearly a factor in the angry response, and the player's Croatian ancestry was darkly professed as somehow having contributed to his motivation.

Yesterday, still trying to expiate his sin by acknowledging it, Bosnich faxed his agent Jon Smith an open letter which was then sent — untouched, Smith told me — to the Press Association.

"During a hold-up in the second half of the game," Bosnich wrote, "the crowd behind my goal were chanting at me and I was smiling and thinking that after two months out with an injury, how good it was to be back again and how nothing had changed."

A reference was then made about the Klinsmann incident which was amusing, and spontaneously, to join in their banter, I mimicked the "Basil Fawlty" salute as a mere jocular acknowledgment of the crowd's banter.

"I am very sorry if I offended anybody. No offence was ever intended, only comical mimicry. I sincerely hope that this attempt at humour and the very genuine sorrow at its offence will conclude this now unfortunate matter. I do not comprehend that people would believe that someone with a Jewish slant would in any way go out to deliberately offend people."

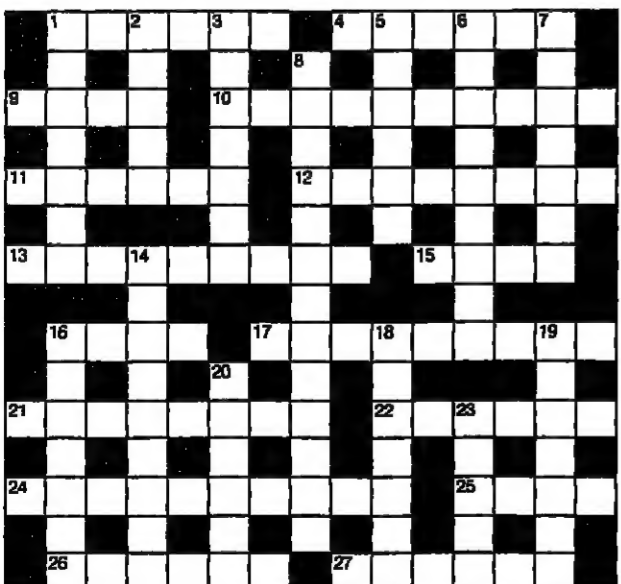
"In closing I would like to say this: anti-Semitism and racism are crimes of humanity. Ignorance and jocularly are not."

Assuming that he meant crimes against humanity and that the ignorance he referred to is his own, I don't think anyone could take issue with Bosnich's apology. The FA disciplinary committee should meet swiftly, dress him down and issue a stern general warning. It would be common sense, then, to leave it at that.

**A**T ANY rate, let us hear no more from Glyn Ford, a Member of the European Parliament, who called for Bosnich to be expelled from the game and proclaimed: "He says it was a joke that went wrong. That is like Eichmann saying the concentration camps were a joke that went wrong."

Well, one knows what Mr Ford meant, just about. But perhaps the Manchester voters who sent him to Strasbourg would care to think hard about the judgment of a man who, when directing our attention to such a profound moral issue, can get a simile so far out of proportion. Adolf Eichmann? Mark Bosnich? Give over.

## Guardian Crossword No 20,784



- Across**
- 1 Praise for Rome in Church of England article (6)
  - 4 Remained sober, so we hear (6)
  - 9 Harrow's air force (4)
  - 10 Thriving American follows Miranda's father (10)
  - 11 Selly is kind, that is evident (6)
  - 12 Complete, even if without alternative (8)
  - 13 Short stories one's acted out (9)
  - 15 Rod, getting pale and sickly, died (4)
  - 16 The sound of deodorised table-tennis? (4)
  - 17 Alpine flower is one less weed to worry about (9)

- Down**
- 1 Tin containing outdoor vegetable (7)
  - 2 Worry about gnats? (5)
  - 3 The top dog has to drink more rum (7)
  - 5 First-rate suggestion to party leader (3-3)
  - 6 A delay for minding a long drink? (4,2,3)
  - 7 Given narcotics, Duke gets tough (7)
  - 8 Sun soon heated resort in Essex (8-2-3)
  - 14 Solicitor sails on south-east river (9)
  - 16 A dish Assop cooked up (3,4)
  - 18 Will beneficiary put entrance in shaker? (7)
  - 19 Get small fault finder to run away (7)

**Set by Orlando**

**21** No harm at all at sea in the long run (8)

**22** Part of Ireland's force ever never-ending (6)

**24** Saint is outwardly happy and true to principles (10)

**25** Rascal on island with warriors (4)

**26** About half a hundred do — but not all (6)

**27** Delicate proposal (5)

**20** Tool for cheat (6)

**23** Landed proprietor in central Airdrie? (5)

**Solution tomorrow**

**22** Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0203 838 228. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by ATS

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## Bobsleigh Briton given life drug ban

**John Duncan**  
**M**ARK TOUT became the first British athlete to admit deliberate steroid use yesterday when it was revealed that he has been banned for life after testing positive for anabolic steroids.

Tout, who has driven in four winter Olympics in both two-man and four-man teams, is the first British athlete to talk publicly about why he took steroids; all other disgraced competitors have protested innocence even in the face of lengthy bans.

Tout took stanozolol, the drug which caused the sprinter Jason Livingston to be sent home from Barcelona, and was caught in a random Sports Council test conducted last month at his Kenilworth home.

"I completely regret doing it," he said. "I have been carrying an injury for the last four years and had various treatments with no success. Then speaking to various people and taking advice that maybe taking drugs would help that problem was one reason why I tried it. It helped when I was training hard and the injury kept breaking down."

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